

Message Text

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64

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 AGR-10 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 /031 W

----- 079130

R 270730Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6735

INFO AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

UNCLAS GABORONE 0854

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, BC

SUBJECT: HIGH LEVEL BOTSWANA INTEREST IN BEEFALO

REFERENCE: POPE-CHRISTENSEN OFFICIAL-INFORMAL LETTER OF MAY
14, 1975

1. ACTING PERMSEC MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (U.S. CITIZEN ON
AID OPEX CONTRACT) HAS CALLED EMBASSY TO INQUIRE ABOUT
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT POSITION REGARDING BEEFALO. HE
SAID HE HAD ATTENDED FILM SHOWING ON BEEFALO AT STATE HOUSE
(PRESIDENT'S RESIDENCE) EVENING, JUNE 23. FILM WAS SHOWN
BY SOUTH AFRICAN, PETER LEVINE, WHO SAID HE REPRESENTED AN
AMERICAN FIRM. LEVINE HAS INDICATED HE REPRESENTS BEEFALO
BREEDER BASOLO. VIRTUALLY THE ENTIRE CABINET ATTENDED AND
SHOWED GREAT INTEREST IN BEEFALO. PERMSEC HAS ALSO SEEN
USIS PREPARED MATERIAL ON THE ANIMAL DISSEMINATED BY
EMBASSY.

2. WHILE INTERESTED IN THE POTENTIAL OF THE BEEFALO,
PERMSEC IS CONCERNED THAT WHAT HE PERCEIVES AS A HIGH
PRESSURE SALES CAMPAIGN FROM SOUTH AFRICA REPRESENTATIVE
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OF A U.S. FIRM MAY RESULT IN UNJUSTIFIED COMMITMENTS TO AN

UNTESTED BREED ON THE PART OF SENIOR GOVERNMENT LEADERS. MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY PERSONNEL ARE INTERESTED IN TRIALS OF THE BEEFALO SEMEN UNDER CONTROLLED CONDITIONS. HOWEVER, THEY ARE CONCERNED THAT R.S.A. SOURCE IS EITHER UNWILLING OR UNABLE TO PROVIDE BASIC DATA.

3. REFERENCE ASKED FOR INFORMATION ON POSSIBILITY OF BASOLO COMING TO BOTSWANA TO DISCUSS HIS ANIMAL. GIVEN HIGH LEVEL BOTSWANA INTEREST IN BEEFALO AND THIS NEW INITIATIVE, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE EXPERTS ON VALUE OF THIS ANIMAL FOR BOTSWANA AND INFORMATION ON THE POSSIBLE AVAILABILITY OF MR. BASOLO FOR A VISIT TO BOTSWANA.
THOMSEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LIVESTOCK, AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, BEEFALO, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975GABORO00854
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750224-0039
From: GABORONE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975067/aaaaafgd.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 POPE-CHRISTENSEN, 75 OFFICIAL-INFORMAL
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 FEB 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 FEB 2003 by PhilliR0>; APPROVED <03 FEB 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HIGH LEVEL BOTSWANA INTEREST IN BEEFALO
TAGS: EAGR, BC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006